



First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – September 23, 2014

FirstNet News

- Numerous meetings were held the week of September 15: board committee meetings, board meeting, PSAC Executive Committee meeting and the public safety and state/local/tribal association staff briefing.
- Following the board meeting, FirstNet posted a [Public Notice on Proposed Statutory Interpretations](#) and a [Request for Information \(RFI\) for Comprehensive Network Solutions](#). The Public Notice, which will be posted to the Federal Register in the coming days, requests comment on certain preliminary interpretations of FirstNet's enabling legislation and the RFI, now posted to FedBizOps, seeks input regarding approaches to, and objectives for establishing the nationwide network. Responses to this RFI will be used by FirstNet to better understand industry's capabilities, evaluate and review prospective best procurement approach(es), and determine how to best leverage existing capabilities and best practices to meet public safety needs. FAQs on these documents is available on the [FirstNet.gov Resources Page](#).
- Upcoming webinars
 - For SPOCs and PSAC Members – Review of RFI and Public Notice
 - Wednesday, September 24: 1 – 2:30 pm EDT; Thursday, September 25: noon – 1:30 EDT; Friday, September 26: 10 – 11:30 am EDT. Join us for one of these sessions as Amanda Hilliard, Director of Outreach, will review the key elements of each document.
 - For SPOCs – Quarterly Webinar #4
 - Wednesday, October 1: 2 – 3:30 pm EDT. We'll be updating your Outlook calendar appointment with the link and conference bridge this week. The agenda will include time for additional questions regarding the RFI and Public Notice.
- The CTO team achieved key milestones in its collaboration with PSCR on priority and pre-emption testing last week. Both were successfully tested in the lab in conjunction with a load simulator, which indicates the features would continue to work on a network

congested with commercial traffic. The CTO and PSCR teams will continue to work to refine these critical capabilities.

- The next consultation meetings will be September 24 in Minnesota; October 8 in Oregon; October 16 in Washington; October 29 in Montana; November 6 in Utah; and November 18 in Iowa.

From the States

- September 24 and 30 – FirstNet joins the California team as they continue their Town Hall outreach forums in Fairfield and Santa Ana.
- September 30 - The Oklahoma FirstNet team continues to accept registration for their third regional outreach workshop at the City Council Chambers in Moore, OK. FirstNet is looking forward to participating once again.
- Oregon's FirstNet team is now hosting a website forum for fellow WestNet participants. The goal is to increase opportunities for members to exchange ideas, discuss questions, share news and documents related to FirstNet, among other things. The WestNet states have a long history of regional collaboration with long standing twice monthly calls. Contact Steve Noel, Oregon SWIC/SPOC for more information – Steve.noel@oregon.gov
- Our thanks again to the Missouri and Indiana FirstNet teams for including us in their state outreach forums last week. It was great to connect in person with the teams and their stakeholders in each of those states.

Media Watch

Traditional Media

The Board meeting received significant coverage from the public safety and communications press, as well as several online news services that cover homeland security and Federal IT developments.

Articles About FirstNet – The information provided is copied as-is from the media outlet source and is not edited by FirstNet.

TR Daily (Summary): FirstNet Pleased With Meetings (9/19/14)

Amanda Hilliard, the First Responder Network Authority's (FirstNet) outreach director, said in a blog posting today that she is pleased with outreach activities that FirstNet conducted after its Sept. 17 board meeting (TRDaily, Sept. 17). "Our outreach activities this week included a conference call with the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) and the states' single points of contact (SPOCs), and meetings with the PSAC Executive Committee," she said. "In addition, yesterday we hosted more than 25 representatives from the major public safety and state/local/tribal associations at our Reston headquarters to have a dialogue with them about recent FirstNet developments, including the Request for Information (RFI) and Public Notice that the Board approved the day before." The meeting with the PSAC Executive Committee included board Chairwoman Sue Swenson and board member Jeff Johnson, as well as acting General Manager TJ Kennedy and Ms. Hilliard.

NRTC Rural Connect: FirstNet RFI Seeks Ways Rural Entities Could Be Part of Build-out (9/18/14)

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), the group tasked with building a nationwide, interoperable wireless broadband network for emergency agencies, has reached a phase where it is ready to look at the details of exactly how to build such a network. More precisely, in a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) adopted on Wednesday during a FirstNet board meeting, it seeks ways potential industry partners, such as rural telephone and electric companies, could fit in the plan. <http://www.ruralconnect.coop/blog/?p=1609>

FedScoop: FirstNet Releases RFI for Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (9/18/14)

[FirstNet](#) has put out a RFI seeking proposals for how to build a nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for first responders. The First Responder Network Authority is a step closer to creating what it was tasked to do. FirstNet issued a request for information Wednesday seeking input on establishing its nationwide interoperable public safety network. The RFI wants proposals on how FirstNet would control its nationwide core network, how radio access networks in states that opt-in to FirstNet would be integrated into the system and how the network would manage devices, applications, maintenance and other deployable capabilities. The eventual contract winner will be responsible for maintaining the network beyond LTE, integrating it into 5G and 6G network standards. <http://fedscoop.com/firstnet-rfi/>

Urgent Communications: FirstNet Board OKs Public Notice, Comprehensive RFI in Key Steps Toward Procurement (9/17/14)

FirstNet board members vote to initiate public-notice and request for information (RFI) proceedings that are designed to prepare for its much-anticipated request-for-proposal (RFP) procurement efforts next year. With today's action, FirstNet will release a comprehensive RFI—including a draft statement of objectives (SOO)—to gather input on technical matters regarding items such as network design, as well as a notice-and-comment document that is designed to get public perspectives on a wide range of FirstNet-related legal issues. Copies of both documents will be posted online at www.firstnet.gov.
<http://urgentcomm.com/public-safety-broadbandfirstnet/firstnet-board-oks-public-notice-comprehensive-rfi-key-steps-toward->

TR Daily (Summary): FirstNet Committees Consider Notice, RFI, FY 2015 Budget (9/16/14)

First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) board committees today considered a public comment notice, a comprehensive network solution request for information (RFI), and the authority's fiscal year 2015 budget. The board's four committees met this afternoon at FirstNet's Reston, Va., headquarters. The full board is scheduled to consider the three items and other issues at its meeting tomorrow morning. The public notice and comment item is similar to a notice of proposed rulemaking issued by administrative agencies, said Stuart Kupinsky, FirstNet's chief counsel. Because FirstNet is exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act, it does not legally have to issue such a notice, but it believes that doing so would be helpful, Mr. Kupinsky said, saying that provisions in the final document will provide "critical inputs into the RFI process."

Urgent Communications: FirstNet Begins New Era with Revamped Board (9/16/14)

The FirstNet board will meet this week with five new members in the 12 appointed slots. Unfortunately, there is not time for a leisurely learning curve, so new members will have to prepare quickly to make key policy decisions in the near future. It's hard to believe that it was less than two years ago that the FirstNet board convened in its first public meeting, in which Chairman Sam Ginn expressed his desire for an aggressive rollout plan and board member Craig Farrill shocked the public-safety industry by outlining a network design for the massive project. <http://urgentcomm.com/blog/firstnet-begins-new-era-revamped-board>

Venable LLP News: Communications Daily Interviews Jamie Barnett on FirstNet's New Board Members and Future Prospects (9/16/14)

Venable partner, and retired Navy Rear Admiral, [Jamie Barnett](#) was interviewed in the September 15, 2014 issue of Communications Daily on FirstNet's newest board members

and its prospects for the future. The newest members include ex-Vermont Republican Gov. Jim Douglas and Houston Mayor Annise Parker, a Democrat. Their addition is expected to help improve FirstNet's relations with state governments.

"The addition of Douglas and Parker to the board is likely to improve the authority's image with state governments," said Admiral Barnett adding that their addition is "a recognition that Commerce is going to have to pay attention" to states' perspectives. "There's been some lost time and misunderstandings, but this goes a long way toward getting FirstNet on the right track with the people that are going to be paying the bills and actually subscribing to the service."

Commenting on the leadership of FirstNet chair Sue Swenson, Admiral Barnett said she has "already proven herself to be a great communicator with all FirstNet stakeholders." Admiral Barnett also said FirstNet needs to better explain its financial and cost model for states. "FirstNet is working very hard on the RFPs, but there still needs to be some type of model upon which the RFPs will be based," he said. "It needs to be explained publicly, and I'm hoping FirstNet will do that in the next few months." See more at:

<http://www.venable.com/communications-daily-interviews-jamie-barnett-on-firstnets-new-board-members-and-future-prospects-09-16-2014/>

Social Media

The FirstNet Twitter account now has more than 922 followers, the LinkedIn account has more than 250 followers and the YouTube account has more than 57 subscribers. Our blog posts from this week can be found at: <http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>